

HERMANN AUGUST HAGEN.

After three years of complete prostration, Dr. Hagen died at his home in Cambridge on November 9, 1893. He was born at Königsberg May 30, 1817 and in the course of his long life became one of the most distinguished entomologists of the century. He lived in Königsberg as a practising physician until 1867 when he removed to Cambridge to take charge of the entomological department of the Museum of comparative zoology. In 1876 he declined a pressing and tempting offer to return to his native country, to take charge of the entomological collections of the University Museum at Berlin. His first essay and his inaugural dissertation on attaining the doctorate were upon Odonata, and this group with other Neuroptera formed afterward the chief subject of his researches, though every order of insects has received treatment in the more than four hundred papers issued by him.

Undoubtedly the work by which he is most widely known is his *Bibliotheca entomologica*, probably the best topical scientific bibliography ever published. Not only is it remarkably complete and free from errors, but in addition to an alphabetical arrangement by authors, in which the entries are chronological, it contains an admirably conceived classified index in a narrow compass which adds vastly to its usefulness. Would that the literature of the generation since its publication might receive similar treatment.

American entomologists will especially recognize the value of his contributions to a knowledge of our own Neuroptera, and notably of the general work prepared by him for the Smithsonian Institution, which gave a precision and a stimulus to later studies in this field. Had the definitions of the higher groups equalled those of the species a really model work would have been produced; as it was, it filled well a decided gap in our literature and has been the basis of all that has since appeared. Our

information is now so much more extended and varied that a new work brought up to date is much needed.

His great skill and erudition were equally shown in the synonymical synopses of many families of Neuroptera which he published from time to time and in his monograph of the white ants, one of the the most difficult of studies—a real monument of learning.

Another field of investigation followed by Hagen with great success was that of extinct Neuroptera. He has probably written more upon them, particularly upon the mesozoic European species, than any other author, and his contributions are among the very best that have enriched the study of fossil insects. The exactitude of his figures and the carefulness of his descriptions give them a particular merit.

During his twenty-five years' residence in this country, Dr. Hagen was remarkably generous in the aid given by him to entomologists of all classes. He replied with great fulness and promptness to all enquiries, and being himself a mine of information in every department of entomology, his readiness was of immense service to his correspondents. Through him the entomological library and collections of the museum were put to their fullest use and his personal work in the arrangement and especially in the biological division of his special charge was something extraordinary. Almost single handed he brought the vast collections into systematic order and kept them so, expending the greatest pains in their proper disposition and careful labelling. The evidence of his painstaking and faithful work is permanently fixed. His death removes one of the beacon lights of our science.

[The delay in the appearance of this notice is due to the fact that, owing to special circumstances, both the December and January numbers of *Psyche* were printed and even prepared for the mail before Dr. Hagen's death.]